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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 22, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

OSD review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: Lowenstein and Moose Trip to Thailand

Pursuant to their request, Lowenstein and Moose discussed in my office today with Claus Ruser various aspects of the way the Department reviews the application of resources, particularly with regard to Laos, Thailand and Cambodia. Then with Glynn Mays they inquired into the statistical basis and the veracity of submission by various agencies with regard to personnel strengths overseas, particularly in light of the November 16 letter from Abshire to Fulbright providing overseas personnel strengths. They also inquired into how we checked into the validity of military and intelligence requirements for base rights overseas, which I explained to them as being a function of political restraints against unnecessary increases in presence overseas which might attach to any case.

They asked to be provided with CIA total figures on how many people are stationed overseas worldwide and, in connection with the November 16 figures, [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted] They also asked to be provided with a copy of the latest DOD publications on installations overseas.

After a discussion with Mr. Popple and his staff on how intelligence requirements for the Department are developed, they asked to see copies of the SNIE on the recent coup in Thailand, and of the State Department intelligence note on the same thing. In the course of that meeting, and subsequently in private conversation, they indicated their interest in [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted]

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I then turned to the questions they had raised with Ambassadors Coerr and Symmes, and in light of our conversations yesterday with the Under Secretary, informed them that while there were no cryptographic security requirements forbidding the handing of telegrams to foreign diplomats, we believe this was not the normal practice, but rather the exception to the general procedure used in conveying information to a foreign representative. In response to a direct question said there was no standing operating procedure for the delivery of masses of State Department telegrams to foreign govemments. Lowenstein said this would not explain the "weekly truck from the Pentagon for Ottawa," to which I commented that his query had only been directed to State Department telegrams and publications and that my response had not involved looking into DOD practices. He then dropped that point. He said, however, that he had seen foreign diplomats leaf through voluminous files of State telegrams, and thus could not be expected to believe what we were telling them about standard practices in some cases. When I pressed him he finally said he was talking about the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. He said he would try to run this down through other sources. I said if he found anything, no one would be more interested than ourselves. He also made allusion to foreign diplomats in Washington frequently leaving the Department with large files of telegrams.

As to intelligence documentation originating in the Department, I said that we had increased the flow of information to the Congress; also, that distribution of these documents to foreign governments was the subject of individual review in each case rather than any automatic procedure for release. Lowenstein and Moose denied that there had been any recognizable increase in the quantity of State Department notes provided to the Committee and, asking me to use their exact language in reporting, termed such notes as had been provided as "crap."

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I told them that we consider the automatic release of documents or telegrams was not the best way to keep the Legislature informed, but that by increased and more thorough briefings and exchanges we hope to convey on a current basis more complete information to the Committee. Lowenstein asked whether this meant he could not go through my files and look at, for example, my chron file. I assured him that it was exactly what it meant. He then claimed this was a change in policy, referring to the fact that Pat Holt had spent several weeks going through the Department's files on the Dominican Republic and that he, Lowenstein, had gone through the Department's files on the Pierrelatte over-flight incident.

CC: H - Mr. Symmes, Mr. Abshire
INR - Mr. Mark, Mr. Coerr, Mr. Popple
DOD - Mr. French
CIA - Mr. Maury, [redacted] 25X1
NSC - Mr. Lehman
EA - Mr. Dexter
U - Mr. Veliotes

PM:JJWolf:bmh
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